

The Library Assistant:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next Meeting will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., on **Wednesday, 18th April**, at 7.30 p.m., when the Association will again accept Mr. MacAlister's invitation to a "Re-union." As before, light refreshments will be served, and the proceedings will commence at 8 p.m.

These informal gatherings are proving not only extremely pleasant, but also very helpful, and the Council's only regret is that not more library workers take advantage of them, for although the attendance steadily improves there are many who are missing these valuable discussions for the sake of a little effort.

OUR ALBUM OF HONOUR: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

With further reference to the announcement in our February issue to the effect that Mr. MacAlister had interested himself in the scheme of preparing an Album of Honour, we now have the pleasure of announcing that he has very kindly forwarded us a cheque to defray the cost of preparing this unique professional record. The Council of the L.A.A. has gratefully accepted this further token of Mr. MacAlister's interest and generosity, and we feel sure that in expressing our appreciation and thanks we are but giving utterance to the sincere wishes of all our readers.

In view of certain enlargements upon our original scheme it is desirable to give a brief outline of the present proposals for the guidance of contributors. Two copies of the Album will be prepared, consisting of mounted photographs and such

printed and other information as may be obtainable relative to all professional workers serving in His Majesty's Forces, whether members of the Association or not. One copy of the Album will be placed in the British Museum, the other in the L.A.A. Library. When the record is complete, arrangements will be made for its circulation throughout the country.

The decision to prepare this second copy necessitates the collection of two prints instead of one. In order that the record may be a permanent one we are particularly anxious to obtain two carbon prints of each portrait. Whenever possible, therefore, may we ask contributors to send us such prints. We think that if the object for which they are required is mentioned to the photographer, he will gladly supply them at a very small extra cost.

Our chief difficulty arises in regard to cases where this request cannot be met, and also in regard to the nearly one hundred prints which have already been collected.

Acting on the practical suggestion of Mr. MacAlister, we are therefore asking for volunteers to assist us in making carbon prints of a standard size. There must be many photographers in our ranks who would, we think, gladly undertake to make a few permanent prints from the silver ones already in our possession. Any assistance rendered in this direction will be gratefully acknowledged in this Journal and in the actual Albums themselves.

The Honorary Editor will be glad to hear from any reader who can help us in this important work.

EDITORIAL.

A Training School for Librarians.—With further reference to the note in our last issue anent this important matter, we are much encouraged to find that in the "Third Annual Report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust," the need for the provision of technical training is again brought forward. As the whole of the section relating to librarianship is of the deepest possible interest to all librarians and library assistants, we take the liberty of reprinting it in its entirety.

"One aspect of the Public Library movement seems to present features requiring careful consideration by all bodies interested in it. The importance of the librarian as the vitalising link between the books and their readers seems apt to be overlooked, or—at all events—not placed in its proper perspective. Even if the provision of books is adequate both in quantity and quality to the population to be served, it will be of little avail unless an efficient staff exists for administering it.

At present the attitude of Local Authorities is too frequently to regard the librarian as a person whose sole duty is to hand books over a counter, and

to consider that an employee with the slightest qualifications and training is sufficient for the purpose. The term "librarian" is lightly used, and often is applied to an official who is placed in charge of a collection of books, with very meagre knowledge of their contents and still less knowledge of the profession to which he purports to belong. This attitude on the part of some authorities results in a salary being paid which is totally inadequate for the responsibilities of the post. The inevitable result is that the profession as it stands to-day offers little or no attraction to a person with ambition, and who has a future to provide for. The present statutory rate limit of 1d. in the £, for library purposes, perforce limits authorities—who have not taken special powers to exceed it—to the strictest economy. The provision and upkeep of the building are necessarily first charges, and the provision of books and of an efficient library staff fall to be considered only after these first charges have been met.

While, however, a strong case for the reconsideration of present financial limitations can be made out, the elevation of a salary scale will not of itself secure the necessary status of the profession of librarianship, or place the right men and women in its ranks. Probably there is no other profession which demands—under present conditions—such slight qualifications and training from those who enter it. The position might be compared with that of the medical profession more than a hundred years ago. At that time students of medicine were apprenticed to apothecaries and surgeons, and then "walked" the hospitals, picking up the elements of knowledge which gradually equipped them for their career. To-day the training of a medical student is a long and exacting one, which has gradually been evolved by the progress of medical science. If a responsible librarian's post has to be filled to-day, a well-advised authority can at best select a person who has been trained under some Librarian of repute, in other words, one who has been apprenticed to a well-known leader in the profession. There is no systematised course of training which provides a regular supply of qualified librarians, and it is, perhaps, a matter for surprise that so much good work has been accomplished in so many of the Library Centres, considering the disabilities of training and of status under which the officials have worked.

Classes for librarians have been held at different times and at different centres in the country, and the Library Association has done a good deal in instituting qualifying examinations, and in issuing certificates of proficiency to those who pass them. But more than this is required. A technical training—based upon a sound preliminary course of general education—is wanted, and this training cannot be secured without providing more than occasional courses of lectures and correspondence classes. Schools for librarians might with advantage be established at the principal centres in the kingdom, co-ordinated with other branches of higher education which are there provided. Schools of this kind would provide the means for the proper study of a complicated subject, and would produce a corps of qualified librarians equipped for the efficient administration of the Public Libraries of the country.

Careful consideration of details would be needed before any professional school of the nature outlined above were established, but something of the kind seems necessary to improve the status of the Librarian, and to create a different attitude towards librarianship from that adopted to-day by those in whose power the financial prospects of the profession largely rest.

Unfortunately, as a result of the War, a number of men, unfitted for the more active employments, but possessed of considerable intellectual attainments, will need to find suitable occupation. The librarian's profession might provide a congenial field for those so placed, if possibilities for training were thrown open to them."

A Diamond Jubilee Celebration.—Our readers will be interested to learn that in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the Norwich Public Library, which was celebrated last month, the Council of the L.A.A. instructed the Honorary Secretary to convey the following resolution to the Corporation:—

"This meeting of the Council of the Library Assistants' Association tenderers its hearty congratulations to the Corporation of the City of Norwich on the 60th celebration of the opening of its Public Library, believing that the Public Libraries of the country are performing a truly national function during these distressing days of war by providing information and furthering research in every department of knowledge, as well as by rendering available a source of healthful and ennobling recreation for the community. The Council of the Library Assistants' Association also congratulates the Corporation on the high state of efficiency the Norwich Public Library has attained under its present Librarian, who has been so wisely and faithfully supported by the Library Committee in his efforts to create an institution worthy of the City."

Space forbids us to dwell at length upon the proceedings at this interesting function, but we cannot refrain from printing a portion of the extremely appreciative and encouraging letter which was received from Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

"It is hard to exaggerate the extent to which the welfare of the nation depends on the prosperity and development of our Public Libraries. The great need of the country is knowledge and respect for knowledge. Knowledge, in any scientific sense of the term, is impossible without books; and respect for knowledge comes with the intelligent and extended use of them. It is the fault of the inhabitants of a town if their Library is not a centre of force and light, radiating its influence over all the life and work of the community; and those men are greatly to be honoured as public benefactors, who, in the face of much discouragement, have built up our Public Libraries, and have done their best to make them worthy of their great ideal.

"I am very glad that you have decided to hold this celebration in war time. The cause for which we are fighting is the cause of civilisation, of the liberty and moral well-being of the peoples of Europe; and our confidence in our ultimate victory arises out of our belief that spiritual things must eventually triumph over material. Every influence that re-enforces our spiritual nature makes us stronger for the struggle in which we are engaged; and the Public Library, whether as the source of knowledge or as a reservoir of mental refreshment and stimulus, is a spiritual influence of the first order. We shall fight better and endure hardships better if our minds are trained and our spirits refreshed; and both for knowledge and for imaginative literature we must come to the Library. Therefore in cherishing our Libraries we are increasing the fighting strength of our nation, and making it more worthy of victory in this, its hour of trial."

NEW MEMBERS.

Member : **Miss Lucy Stubbs**, University Library, Birmingham.

Associate : **Miss Enid Dawson**, Croydon.

West of Scotland Branch : **Associate** : **Miss M. I. McDougall**, Anderston Library, Glasgow.

THE INTER-RELATION BETWEEN THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.*

By the late D. L. STRACHAN, Leeds.

When one looks at the question of modern education, one cannot help but think that in the environment of such a standard of education at present, it is essential that libraries and museums should endeavour to fall into line with this advance and progress of the people. The museum, unfortunately, has been looked upon by some people as a place of curiosities and remarkable phenomena, and not necessarily as a means of advancing education.

No one doubts that the museum has been the means of giving greater stimulus to the sciences and arts, and the work done in this direction of late years has been in no small degree due to the influence of museums and art galleries. Again, museums are sometimes looked upon as institutions in which to spend an inclement day, and I think that the fault lies more with museum authorities than with the general public. Some museums are not arranged on any specific basis, and therefore are not able to edify those who visit them. Others are arranged on too scientific a plan, making it so that a man of average intellect is unable to appreciate the exhibits, whilst others are arranged haphazard, and look more like a marine store than a museum.

The aims of the library and the museum are very similar, each performing the double task of instruction and research, the first through books, the second through material objects, but each borrowing to some extent the methods of the other.

The museum is an essential part of the educational system, as it enables a reader to realise the material side of the subject he is studying, and if arranged in a systematic manner, will influence the reader in no small degree, and show him the reality of practical observation. In the same manner as kindergarten lessons benefit children, so do museums benefit library readers.

With cases of exhibits in a museum, it would be of great service and of practical utility, if on the outsides of the cases were affixed lists of books relative to the exhibits, which would enable the student to read about any of the subjects exhibited, and so further the interests of the library. But for our scheme

* This paper, read before the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. several years ago, is printed as a slight tribute to the memory of the late Captain Strachan, who gave his life for his country last year.—ED.

to be of practical benefit, it is essential that museums shall be arranged with precision and in definite order. By this I do not mean strict scientific classification—that would tend to bore the average person—but a sensible bringing together of objects of a like character, combined with originality of display, would certainly be of benefit. Some museums I have seen—I do not refer to the large ones—remind me more of a dealer's shop, cannibal spears against costly Coalport china, without any attempt at helping the observer, and very often valuable and costly exhibits are here consigned to out-of-the-way places, and miscellaneous lumber reposes in their place. If the museum is to be of practical benefit to all it must be arranged in an intelligent manner, when we shall find it to be of great instructive value, and increased influence in modern education.

Education authorities have found that the museum and the library are important factors, and much good is being done by bringing school children into closer relationship with those institutions. It is remarkable how that, in America, the library and the museum co-operate in education work, and I could quote many examples where work of a double character has proved a unique success.

Furthermore, if the plan of schools in the library was adopted, I feel sure that educational interests would be served in no small degree. At Leeds, for example, parties of school children are taken to the branch libraries and books are given them which have previously been selected by the teachers. The children read the books and make enquiries when in any difficulty. Should the child read about a subject which creates a passing interest, that interest should be developed. Let us suppose that a pupil has a book on birds placed before him, and that the subject awakens his interest. The child should then visit the museum and see the specimens contained there. If the institutions were joint, it would be quite an easy matter to refer to the practical from the theoretical.

There is a plan adopted in some American libraries where the museum and library are in one building. Classes are taken to the library and are given books relating to a special subject; after a short study the children are shown specimens of the subject studied. This plan appears to have the distinct advantage of creating a keen observation of things, and the books are invariably asked for again.

At Cardiff a system of lectures to school children is in vogue on subjects which admit of demonstration. Many very interesting subjects have been dealt with, and explained with additional interest by means of specimens selected and prepared for the

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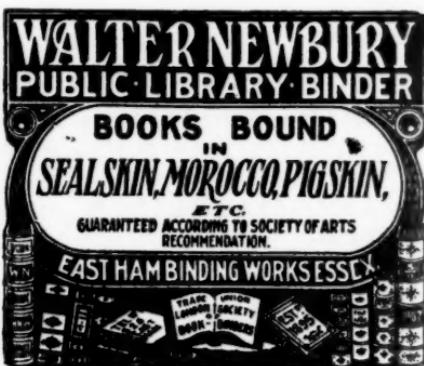
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ALBUM OF HONOUR.

See Important Announcement on Page 37.

East Ham Bookbinding Works,



Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

Library Association Examination, 1917.

The next Professional Examination will be held on 7-12th May, 1917, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., and at other centres in the provinces and abroad. 7th May, Classification; 8th May, Cataloguing; 9th May, Library Organisation; 10th May, Library Routine; 11th May, Literary History; 12th May, Bibliography. Alternative questions relating to scientific, technical and commercial libraries and bibliographies will be inserted in the examination papers in Sections 2 and 6. Candidates wishing to enter for this examination must hold L.A. Certificates, have passed the Preliminary Test, or else hold certificates approved by the Education Committee. Fee, 5s. for each section. Last day of entry 7th April.

Copies of the Syllabus, together with all particulars, can be obtained on application to Ernest A. Baker, M.A., D.Lit., Honorary Secretary, Education Committee, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

MONTHLY RE-UNION.

The NEXT RE-UNION

For Library Workers,

WILL BE HELD AT

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

1, WIMPOLE STREET, W.,

On WEDNESDAY, 18th APRIL, 1917.

Light Refreshments will be served at 7.30 p.m.

**This Meeting will take the place of the ordinary Monthly Meeting
of the Library Assistants' Association.**

ALL LIBRARY WORKERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

ARE YOU HELPING?

The Library Assistants' Association

has done much good work for its Members and for LIBRARIANSHIP GENERALLY in the past. It has stimulated individual effort towards increased efficiency; it has always urged the further development of the Public Library Movement; it has stood for better conditions and has claimed a STANDING FOR THE PROFESSION. At the moment the Association is extending its influences and work, and needs the support and co-operation of all who are qualified for Membership; difficult problems lie ahead which can only be faced effectually by a strong Association.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING.

You can quicken interest in your own vicinity. You can get new Members, or secure subscribers to "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT." Perhaps you can obtain advertisements for "The Library Assistant."

WILL YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING

for your Association? And will you try now? Remember that the L.A.A. was established TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, and holds a recognized position. It is no new venture with its way to make.

Any information you may need will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary, BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD, POPLAR, LONDON, E.*

purpose. Any lecture is made more interesting if a selection of specimens relating to the subject is shown to the listener, and so libraries should be more concerned with the interpretation of books, and in this way the museums can come to our help.

I cannot help thinking that there has been a little apathy on behalf of museum authorities in moving with the times, and therefore people have not been able fully to realise their true value.

Another question arises, and that is, should the library and the museum be under the same management, and in one building, or should each be separate and in different buildings? My own view is that they should certainly be in close proximity to each other, and seeing that the essentials of each are the same, it is certainly preferable to have both institutions under one roof. Each institution is interdependent. Let us suppose that a reader in the reference library of a joint institution is reading a book on Roman coinage and desires to see actual original specimens. Passing to the museum, he is enabled to see the coins, and goes on his way rejoicing. Now, it is that spontaneous interest that must be catered for, and if done will create a good influence over the work of the library, and a healthy optimism on behalf of the reader. Of course, the side of the museum referring to the library should be more cultivated if possible, and cases of exhibits should always have attached to them bibliographies of books on the subjects exhibited therein. It has been suggested that small cases of books relative to a given display of exhibits should be fixed in close proximity to the show cases.

It may be argued that a librarian can hardly undertake the duties of a curator, but librarians—as a whole—are intelligent and educated men, and I do not think that the ban of inefficiency can be levelled at their heads. In fact, I think, that the relationship between the two being so strong, cannot but have a beneficial effect on the library and the museum jointly. As to specialised exhibits in a museum, there are always clever and intellectual citizens who are only too pleased to give the curator the advantage of their superior knowledge.

In conclusion, I ask you to weigh the facts and feasibility of this scheme, and I think you will agree that there should be more in common with the library and the museum, both of which are truly educational institutions of a like character destined for the purpose of instruction and research, and that while one teaches in what I might call a theoretical manner, the other shows the material and practical side of a subject. The influence of both in conjunction, I cannot but think, will be of great benefit to the community at large.

GREAT LONDON.*

By the late HENRY W. CHECKETTS.

Great London, mightiest city of this age,
 And reminiscent still of page on page
 Of that great book of History, where it is told
 How Britain grew and grew, yet waxed not old;
 Inspire me now and help me to relate
 Some features prime that seem to make thee great.
 First Parliament, within whose noble walls
 Great orators responded to the call
 Of country and of duty.

The Abbey, too, where rest the nation's dead,
 Revives the memory of men who led
 The worldly march of science, letters, song,
 And ever in the great tumultuous throng
 Of Aspirants to fame, maintained our name
 With glorious honour in this life's great game,
 Our heads are bared in such a sacred fane
 Where Celt and Roman, Norman, Saxon, Dane,
 Mingle their dust together.

The vast St. Paul's, whose mighty space is bound
 By traffic's tumult and the busy sound
 Of London's human hive—contriving still
 To harness peace within the noisy mill.
 And London Bridge, o'er which the seagulls play
 Witness of woe by night, of life by day.
 The melancholy Monument is here
 Of those who suffered in the dreadful year,
 When fire consumed the City.

The streets themselves show many wondrous sights,
 And facile is the pen that of them writes
 To satisfaction—for the varied change
 Of scenes and persons represent a range
 That covers all man's wisdom, art and thought.
 Indeed, this latter trinity is brought
 To serve all purposes, and even tries
 By burrowing the earth, to utilise
 Most novel means of transit.

Great London, mightiest city of this age!
 The theme of prophet, priest and poet sage
 Thou should'st be, for who cannot help but feel
 That thou has yet a secret to reveal
 Whereby we see the present through the past,
 And learn that labour, struggling, does at last,
 Accomplish some fine end, of which the view
 Remains for such time till new work renew,
 Its decadence in triumph.

* These lines recently came into our possession, and, although without professional interest, we print them here because we are sure that many of Checketts' friends will like to possess them.

THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY.*

There is an urgent and daily increasing need for a complete "Manual" for the guidance of the many library authorities who are contemplating the establishment of a Commercial library. The literature of the subject is steadily increasing, but it is in fugitive form. So far as we know, the important contributions to the subject are "The Purpose, Equipment and Methods of the Commercial Library," by the Glasgow City Librarian, noticed in our January issue, "A Commercial Library for Glasgow," by Robert Adams, and the pamphlet to which we are now referring. We trust that the experience and information embodied in these three publications will be brought together and enlarged into a volume worthy of this important subject.

There has been, we think, some slight misapprehension as to what a Commercial library really is, and we are glad to see that in the present paper an attempt has been made to lay down a definition of its scope and objects.

"It implies not only a collection of every sort of printed information bearing upon commerce, but its organization. It implies also the isolation of this matter in some separate room or building, in order that the business man shall find in that place nothing which does not concern him, where commercial material only is to be found. The object then of the Commercial library may be succinctly stated as the collection, indexing, and dissemination of information useful to the merchant, trader, manufacturer, and shopkeeper, and in fact to everyone whose business in life is to buy and sell."

This particular species of library is then discussed very briefly under the three heads of books, buildings, and brains. In regard to books—or shall we say printed material—Mr. Jast is of opinion that "The first place may be given perhaps to Government and official documents, such as Consular reports, publications of the Board of Trade, reports of Chambers of Commerce, railway and shipping publications, including time tables and particulars of freight charges for various parts of the world, not forgetting the various trade gazettes issued by our own Board of Trade and by the British Dominions and Colonies, and the trade circulars dealing with particular trades issued by various brokers."

Under "Buildings" emphasis is laid upon the necessity for having the Commercial library in the right place, namely, in the business centre of the city. Manchester seems to have reached

* The Organization of British Trade: the Commercial library. By L. Stanley Jast. 9 pp. Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes. Twopence.

the ideal in this respect by securing accommodation for its Commercial library in the new Exchange building. The writer wisely points out that "the accommodation for books should not be more than is needed for material of current value, for the Commercial library should not set itself out to collect for collecting's sake." He also emphatically expresses the opinion that the man in charge of the Commercial library should be a trained librarian, a man capable of organizing printed material, a man "who is accustomed to 'get up' sufficient knowledge of the contents of books to fit him to arrange them in the best way, and to provide the best catalogue and index keys."

Since the idea of the Commercial library was first brought forward, we have been somewhat perturbed lest the thing should defeat its object by being overdone—if we may use the expression—through every little town attempting to build up a library of its own. We are glad to see, therefore, that Mr. Jast makes a point of saying that "the highly organized Commercial library will be limited to the large towns which occupy the centre of a manufacturing area, such as Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle-on-Tyne, etc." In order to prevent these libraries growing up in a haphazard fashion we would suggest that the Board of Trade should draw up a list of cities and towns in which fully equipped Commercial libraries ought to be established, and that the Board should make a grant towards their upkeep, subject to the condition that the library and its resources should form a centre on which the small outlying districts may draw. In regard to cost, Mr. Jast states that "this would be met, either partly or wholly by the Town Council, either from the library rate, or if this, as is to be feared will be generally the case, is inadequate, by a special grant. But the Board of Trade may also be fairly expected to help financially. So, too, the chambers of commerce and various trade organizations might give some financial support, once they were convinced that the Commercial library is worth while."

PROCEEDINGS.

THE MARCH REUNION.

An interesting and well-attended reunion was held at the Royal Society of Medicine on Wednesday, 14th March, by kind invitation of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister. The first part of the evening was given over to social intercourse, after which Mr. Falconer Madan, M.A., Bodley's Librarian, opened an informal discussion on "The Standardization of Library Statistics." Later, Mr. Pacy, Acting Honorary Secretary of the L.A., opened a discussion on the relationship of the Public Libraries of the country and their staffs to the National Service scheme.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: TENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held at the Central Public Library, Leeds, by kind permission of Mr. T. W. Hand, the City Librarian. Before the ordinary business of the meeting, the President, Mr. G. W. Strother, referred to the death of Captain David L. Strachan, and submitted the following:—

“That this meeting of the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. desires to express to the relatives of the late David L. Strachan their sorrow at his untimely end, deplored the loss of a friend and colleague, who, by his genial personality, endeared himself to every member of the Association.”

There was not a large attendance of members, but lack of numbers was made up for by an abundance of enthusiasm. Mr. Treliving moved, and Miss Hummerston seconded, the adoption of the Annual Report; then followed a few interesting remarks by the President on the future of the branch. The notice calling the meeting contained the following: “In the opinion of some of our members the time has arrived when it is necessary to decide whether or not the branch should suspend operations until after the war.” Whilst allowing that it was no use attempting to carry on unless we could do so with credit to ourselves in the eyes of the public, Mr. Strother thought that we should hesitate before deciding to suspend operations. There was interesting and serious work ahead for those in the library profession, and a society like ours could be of the utmost benefit. He pointed out that although there had been tremendous changes in the personnel of the various library staffs, out of the big total of assistants who had left the library service, only six were members of the L.A.A. This meant that all those library assistants who took their profession seriously were members, and it would be a serious matter to take from them the opportunities for intercourse which the branch meetings provided. Every member present took part in the discussion which followed, and there was an unanimous desire to carry on until the boys come home.

Owing to the uncertainty of the future of the Branch no nominations for Committee had been made. Mr. Greenwood, of Bradford, moved “that the whole of the present Officers and Committee be re-elected until things return to their normal condition,” and this was passed without opposition. Later, Mr. Treliving was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Strachan, and the following ladies, Misses Blenkinsop, Calam, Pritchard and Rhodes, kindly consented to serve as co-opted members of the committee. Arrangements were made to hold two meetings during the first half of the year. After the meeting the members of the Leeds staff, with their usual generosity, provided an excellent supper.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

Cardiff: *F. C. BULLOCK, Honorary Secretary, South Wales Branch (15th Batt., London Regiment, Civil Service Rifles).

Dunfermline: Carnegie U.K. Trust: *R. D. MACLEOD (Lance-Corporal, 2/6th Black Watch).

* Member, L.A.A.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY JAMES.

Wednesday, the 28th February, 1917, the anniversary of his death, was the occasion of an interesting ceremony at the Chelsea Public Library, when Mr. Birrell unveiled a handsome bronze bust to the memory of Henry James, O.M., the well-known novelist and critic.

Born in New York on the 15th April, 1843, he was a lover of both France and England, and it was the last great act of his life which endeared him to Chelsea; for in 1914 he expressed his devotion to the country which had honoured him by becoming a naturalised British subject. He chose Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, the home of art and scholarship, for his home, spent the last few years of his life there, and died on the 28th February, 1916—a great man, loved by all who knew him.

In his honour a number of Chelsea folk subscribed to present this noble representation of the novelist to the Chelsea Public Library. The original bust was modelled from life by Francis Derwent Wood, A.R.A., in 1914, and it was in memory of a great friendship, that Mr. Sargent, the famous painter, acquired this fine work. He has now paid him a further tribute by permitting the sculptor to execute a handsome replica for this occasion. It is installed in the Library proper, where it is in immediate touch with all who are interested in the life of that institution.

E. M. D.

IN MEMORIAM.

In memory of Henry T. Coutts, F.L.A., formerly President and Honorary Secretary of the L.A.A., who died suddenly at Croydon on Easter Eve, 1916.

OUR LIBRARY.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. PROVINCIAL LIBRARY. Bibliography of Publications on the War Contained in the Provincial Library. 52 pp. 1916. *Bulletin No. 1.* Wrappers. [No price.]

A useful classified list of books and pamphlets relating to every phase of war, with author and subject indexes. The entries are full, generally including particulars of place and date of publication and name of publisher; in many cases explanatory notes from authoritative sources are appended, and the Dewey numbers are given throughout.

We note with pleasure that other "Bulletins" "covering sections of particular interest" are to be published from time to time.

APPOINTMENT.

TATTERSALL, GLADYS, of the Bury Public Library, has been appointed a senior assistant, Coventry Public Libraries.